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# Norwin Star

## Players unite for all-star tradition

Michael Love  
Sports Editor  
Wednesday, June 22, 2005

Rivals became teammates. Enemies in the fall became friends in the summer.

New friendships were formed in the name of football. They are friendships that will last a lifetime.

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Last Saturday's Foothills Football Classic at Norwin High School had both a winner and a loser on the scoreboard. The South defeated the North, 13-8, behind the running of Clairton's Dana Brown and Duquesne's Shane Brooks.

Photos courtesy of Barry Reeger of the Tribune Review.

"Not too many people can say they ended their high school career with a win," said Norwin lineman Matt Hornyak, a member of the South squad.

But when the final horn sounded, all the players stood on the field knowing that they took part in a special summer tradition.

It was almost as if the memory of the game's final score started to immediately fade away. They relished the opportunity to play one more high school football game.

"It was a very fun experience," said Penn-Trafford's Kevin Mullen, who played both offense and defense for the North.

"I wish we could play another game with each other. It felt awesome to be able to crack skulls again. Everyone left it all on the field. The South was a good team, but we never quit. We became very close as a team."

The game featured the usual penalties and turnovers that are part of every all-star contest. After only a week of practice together, those things happen.

There were also plenty of big plays and big hits from some of the area's best players.

Gateway's Justin Colbaugh and Penn Hills Charles Morris delivered their share of big hits.

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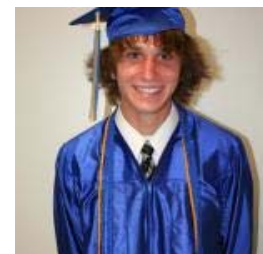
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On what looked like an easy 80-yard touchdown run by Brooks in the second quarter, Woodland Hills Terrance Johnson didn't give up and tracked Brooks down right before the end zone.

"Almost all of these guys were captains for their teams and have had the glory," said North head coach Muzzy Colosmo, the head man at Greensburg Central Catholic.

"They put all that behind them and did what ever they could for the team. All those different personalities were brought together."

It was that idea of team that struck a cord with Franklin Regional lineman R.J. Williams, who will attend UNLV in the fall.

"Throughout the game and at the end, we felt like we were a team that had played together throughout an entire season. We put any rivalries from the season behind us. It was about the name on the front of the jersey, not the name on the back."

North MVP Bob Johnson, a lineman from Burrell, recorded a first-quarter safety to give the North a 2-0 lead.

A catch-and-pitch play, with Jeannette's A.J. Graves sprinting the final 51-yards to the end zone, accounted for the North's second score.

Brown scored both South touchdowns with short runs.

"It was just great to come together, go to war and make lasting friendships," Penn-Trafford lineman Dave Bucar said.

The game was not without its casualties, however.

Norwin wide receiver-defensive back Bob Eagleson, broke a bone in his hand during the second quarter of Saturday's game.

Eagleson said he took a helmet to the hand during a pile-up. A trip to the hospital followed the game.

The South now leads the Foothills Classic series, 8-2.

The all-star contest returned to Norwin High School for the first time since the summer of 2000. Hempfield and East Allegheny split hosting duties from 2001 to 2004.

Hornyak was one of four offensive or defensive linemen to receive a \$250 scholarship from Impact Innovative Products.

The weekend was kicked off on Friday evening as both squads gathered at Stratigos in North Huntingdon for the annual Foothills Classic Banquet.

Former Steelers lineman and current radio personality Craig Wolfley was the guest speaker and got the crowd pumped up for Saturday's game.



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This was a bad move. This tower will be an eyesore for those who live nearby.

The benefits to the turnpike -- traffic webcams and expanded communications -- make this worthwhile for everyone.

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